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Director of Central Intelligence

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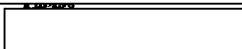
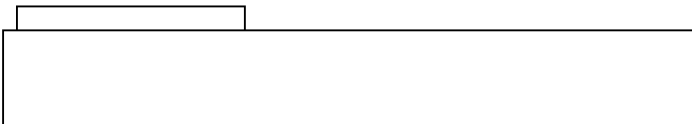


National Intelligence Daily

Monday, 22 April 1996



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EAST ASIA

China:

Nuclear Testing Progressing

[] China is accelerating its nuclear testing preparations at Lop Nur as it seeks to conduct four tests this year—twice the usual number. []

— *These tests could support China's ongoing efforts in the development of future ICBM warheads, a MIRVed warhead, and a cruise missile warhead, as well as safety and reliability enhancements and radiation hardening applications.* []

China probably is trying to finish all testing before signing a comprehensive test ban treaty, which could occur late this year. Beijing has previously claimed the right to test until a treaty enters into force.

— Earlier this year, China's representative to CTBT negotiations said China might be willing to discontinue nuclear testing upon signing the treaty if the five permanent UN Security Council members reach a "political understanding" not to do anything contrary to the treaty before it enters into force. A senior Foreign Ministry official said China will stop testing after signing a CTBT. []

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